

# *The Mouth of the River*

*Oyster River High School*



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- French v. Spanish
- Boys Better than Girls
- Trouble in the Church
- World News

November 2003

# Happy Thanksgiving!

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**Mouth of the River**  
**Oyster River High School**  
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# Reese's and freeze pops sacrificed to Interact Club's snackbar thief

by Beth Santos  
Newswriter

It began when Katelyn Cole walked into Oyster River's new snackbar and wondered why there were freeze pops on the floor.

"I was like, 'Why are there freeze pops on the floor?'" Cole explained.

A whole bag was missing from the freezer. Boxes of candy in the cabinet were empty. Sunflower seeds were strewn across the floor. Chips,

Reese's...gone. Quite obviously, something very bad had just occurred. "I tried to make sense of what happened," Cole continued. "It's just one of those things that you ask, 'why?'"

Cole is a member of the ever-growing Interact Club, an Oyster River High School community service group powered by the non-profit organization, Rotary International. Students in the club gather every Thursday to raise money for charity as well as perform community service activities.

Late last year, Principal Don Lafferty asked the club

if they would like to co-run a new snackbar with the school's booster club throughout the '03-'04 school year. When Lafferty explained that all proceeds would benefit the club's charity fund, their answer was a hearty yes.



about," Kishbaugh said. "Benefiting other people."

It was a few weeks after the opening of the snackbar, which was already very popular in its efforts to bring food and beverages to spectators of ORHS sports games. Katelyn Cole began to open up for another

regular day. However, the day was all but regular. In fact, \$150 worth of merchandise was missing, as well as \$12 from the sale of CDs to benefit the Todd Heuchling Scholarship Fund.

April Summers, President of the Interact Club, thought long and hard about the snackbar's reopening. Unsure if they should risk losing more money for breast cancer patients and children in poverty, the Interact club let the snackbar fall idle.

Officer Ed Levesque of the Durham Police Department investigated the situation a couple days later. He inquired about the alarm in the snackbar that alerts the police dispatch center immediately when triggered. He discovered that the alarm had not been set, and proceeded to offer three possible scenarios in how the snackbar was broken in: 1, the intruder had a key to the snackbar in possession; 2, s/he planned the break-in beforehand and did something to prevent the door from locking before it closed for the day; or 3, the door, contrary to the claims of the Interact Club, had never been locked. "We have to assume... there was a key- or we know there's someone around here who can pick locks," he joked.

Because the snack bar is not made to store items overnight, the act would be considered a theft rather than a full-blown burglary. Thefts are punishable

*Continued on page 10*

## A Not-so-Quiet Riot

by Tim O'Keefe  
Newswriter

"We could hear the sirens and all of the people screaming from my house," exclaimed Patricia McCarthy, a junior at Oyster River High School. "I made sure that I stayed inside".

This student, like many others, was of course talking about the out-of-control riots that swept through the streets of downtown Durham NH, in early October. After the Boston Red Sox lost a tear-jerking game to the New York Yankees during the playoffs, fans from UNH let out their frustration on the usually quiet campus.

"We made sure to call in extra help," said Durham Assistant Fire Chief Mike Blake. The DFD called many of the surrounding departments, making sure that they were prepared to take on anything that could occur on that raucous night. And indeed, many police officers and UNH Student Service members were met with much hostility from students. Whether they were lighting dumpsters on

*continued on page 7*

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| Name,<br>Political Party      | John Edwards, Democrat   | Joseph Lieberman, Democrat  | Carol Mosely Braun, Democrat  | George W. Bush, Republican   |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
|                               |   |   |    |   |
| State                         | North Carolina   | Connecticut   | Alabama   | Texas  |
| Education                     | Attorney   | Attorney  | Attorney  | Master Of Business Administration  |
| Previous Career               | US Senator   | Connecticut Attorney General & US Senator   | First African-American woman Senator  | Incumbent, President of the United States  |
| Current Campaign Finance      | \$14.5 million   | \$11.8 million  | \$230,000   | \$85 million   |
| On the Issues:<br>War on Iraq | Believes the US should be fighting the "War on Terrorism" quicker and with more force.   | Believes that the War on Iraq was very wasteful and unnecessary; peacekeeping is more effective than the use of force.                            | Opposes the War due to Bush's misrepresentation of the purpose for going to war with Iraq.  | Declared war on the Afghanistan Government on grounds of their support of Terrorist Entities.  |
| Education                     | He will increase teacher's pay and the quality of education and extracurricular activities for all students, and the first year of college for every student will be free. | Increase Federal Aid to public schools, provide optional preschool for any child 4 years or older, and help to lower the price of State Colleges. | Braun believes that public schools need more federal funding. She also believes that the future of the US economy relies on the children receiving the best education possible. | Bush passed the "No Child Left Behind" act to support early learning programs, increase Federal spending of public schools by over 59%, and to measure students progress of grade school children.                           |
| Economy                       | Wants to encourage personal saving and investing for the future, and create tax incentives for corporations that produce their goods in the United States.                 | Plans to pay off national debt by 2008 by limiting non-defense spending and encourages individuals to invest in the economy.                      | Does not have an economic policy on her presidential website.   | Bush plans to continue his economic plan from 2001; he will continue his tax refund plan for the lower and middle classes, provide tax cuts for small businesses, and increase Federal Aid to States for financial services. |
| Defense                       | Security of the homeland is more important than fighting wars. Plans to tighten security in the United States while not jeopardizing citizen's privacy.                    | Increase government spending on privately owned intelligence firms, and use the National Guard to focus on Home Land Security.                    | The US should finish the job of rebuilding Iraq and not abandon them. She also believes that America needs to support our troops in Iraq.                                       | Increase security at air ports, sea ports, and the US boarder. Create a terrorist threat analysis center, and focus FBI on the prevention of domestic terrorism.   |
| Campaign Web Site             |  | <a href="http://www.joe2004.com/sitePageServer">http://www.joe2004.com/sitePageServer</a>   | <a href="http://www.moseley-braun.org/content.php?page=home">http://www.moseley-braun.org/content.php?page=home</a>   | <a href="http://www.georgewbush.com">http://www.georgewbush.com</a>  |



|                                   |  |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Name, Political Party             | General Wesley Clark, Democrat<br>  | Howard Dean, Democrat<br>  | John F. Kerry, Democrat<br>          |
| State                             | Arkansas   | Vermont  | Massachusetts   |
| Education                         | 4 Star General   | Physician  | Attorney  |
| Previous Career                   | NATO Supreme Allied Commander<br>1997-2000   | Governor of Vermont 91'-03'  | Assistant District Attorney & US Sanetor  |
| Current Campaign Funding          | \$3.5 million  | \$25.4 million   | \$20.1 million  |
| On the Issues:<br><br>War on Iraq | Believes that the war should not be fought with traditional techniques for an unconditional war, and that more reliable intelligence should be used.   | He opposes the war, and believes that the new Iraqi government could turn into a fundamentalist regime.  | Believes that the US should turn over the rebuilding of Iraq to United Nations & NATO.                                  |
| Education                         | Currently no education plan on his presidential website.   | Plans to increase school funding and put money back into vocational education. Student Health centers are also a key part of Dean's plan to help every student to succeed. | It is important to reduce class sizes and supply under funded schools with over \$25 billion in Bonds for new bildings. |
| Economic Plan                     | Clark will cut intra-government spending by over \$225 billion. To stimulate the economy over \$100 billion in tax cuts for families, and create incentives for corporations to employ American labor. | Dean's economic plan calls for simplifying the tax laws and repealing tax cuts. He will use the money repealed from the tax to impliment a Universal Healthcare program.   | Believes in expanding Americas Infrastructure in hopes of createing new jobs and stimulating the economy.               |
| Defense                           | Clark's defense plan will target the source of our vulnerability, anti-Americanism. He will disband the American Monopoly that has given the world the idea that we are greedy                         | Defeat threat of terrorism, strengthen alliances with Russia & China, and ensure the sustainability of the World's resources.  | Plans to significantly increase national spending on Homeland Security.   |
| Campaign Web Site                 | <a href="http://www.clark04.com/">http://www.clark04.com/</a>  | <a href="http://www.deanfor america.com/">http://www.deanfor america.com/</a>  | <a href="http://www.john kerry.com/">http://www.john kerry.com/</a>   |

2004 General Election: October 6, 2004    Candidate info compiled from: Candidate Web Sites and National Public Radio Interviews.

# ORHS Falls into The PIT

By Tim O'Keefe

*News writer*

It's ten minutes before showtime, and all of the members of the Pit crew are bustling about getting set up for the first band to play. The pit members are checking mics while weaving through band members warming up and tuning their instruments. The whole place looks to be somewhat disheveled. "Somebody screwed up," said Sam Parsons, a member of the Pit. "That's why things aren't running so smoothly". After a bit more running around and some brief quarrels among frazzled Pit members, the



## Got Credits???

by Dimah Eroshkin

*Contributing Writer*

How would you feel if you had to go to High School for five years? Well, if the administration manages to convince the teachers and the school board that the current credit requirement is too low, then a lot more students might have to stay for another year.

According to Don Lafferty, if the credit requirement were increased, it would help to "cut down on cutting classes." However, Mr. Lafferty acknowledges that currently it's not easy to do this because there aren't enough classes that people are interested in. Lafferty also stated that this change would most likely come into effect next year increasing the credit requirement to anywhere from 20 1/4 to 20 3/4. Also this increase would likely culminate at 22 credits.

Matt Pappas, a social studies teacher, agrees that this change would be helpful; he says that if this change takes place it will encourage people to take

first band took the stage and jammed away.

The Halloween Variety/Pit Show, held October 29th, 2003, in the Oyster River High School cafeteria was a gathering of fresh young talent eager to show the crowd of ORHS students, (and beyond), what they've got.

The crowd was also energetic and excited to hear the bands play. "No Dice rocks hard," commented junior Sarah Froelich. "I'm excited to see them play."

"The freshman band sounds pretty good," Liz MacKinnon, a junior at ORHS, told MOR. "All of our school bands kick (butt)".

First up to perform was Katie Seiler. The ORHS junior crooned through two songs with help from David Lofgren, Cliff Laney, Matt Ford, and Chris Milner, who all played while Seiler was singing.

One of the factors that made the Pit Show so interesting was the large array of unique talent among the performers. As evidence of this, the next act that followed Seiler was Surface To Air. The band, which consisted of Kyle Cranney, Mike Ferguson, Chaz Hewitt, and Nicho Jaras played a set which included some originals and then a couple covers of some Blink 182 classics.

Throughout the night, there were not many mishaps or problems that arose. However, when the band P.O., (short for Piss Off), started to perform, they were met with some unhappy faculty members and were asked to leave the stage due to their explicit lyrics. "I'm angry that P.O. got kicked off,"

classes that they wouldn't normally take.

As one sophomore, Nick Sosnowski, told this reporter, "People who will struggle with passing courses will struggle with meeting credit requirements." However, Mr. Sosnowski says that he doesn't really care.

Unlike Sosnowski, most students consider the possibility of increased requirements a bad thing. According to Chris Williams, if the credit requirements are increased it will make a lot of students mad. He says, "They should just leave it as it is."

said Sam Parsons. "We invite them to come play at the show then they end up having to step down."

The crowd didn't let this unfortunate predicament get them down. They stuck with the acts throughout the entire show and cheered for everyone. "We had a great turn out," said Becka Allen, a member of the Pit. "They (the crowd) were really good about supporting the new bands that came out tonight".

After a good two hours, when the crowd had thinned out, the band No Dice stepped on stage as the final act. They played many of their original songs, and appeared to be one of the crowd's favorites. "I always love No Dice," said Liz MacKinnon. No Dice cut short their set after a string on Matt Ford's guitar snapped, and they decided

to call it a night. However, after they had left the stage, a couple of bands stayed and played a little longer.

After all was said and done on that rainy Wednesday night, the Halloween Variety/Pit Show appeared to be a success. "I'd say tonight was pretty successful," concluded Dave Lofgren, a junior at ORHS and a band member of No Dice. "Personally, I had a lot of fun, and I think that we didn't let the rain bring our spirits down."



## Mouth of the River



## Controversy in the Church

by Casey Streelman  
Newswriter

A sea of candles illuminated the Durham Evangelical Church parking lot, while dedicated Episcopalians worshiped and prayed together inside the church for the now frayed fabric of their faith. At the Whittemore Center the mood was much less somber with Anti-Gay protestors shouting their disapproval of Reverend Gene Robinson's Ordination, while Gene Robinson's supporters applauded his ordination.

At 4 o'clock on Sunday, November 2, 2003, The Reverend Gene Robinson was ordained as the Bishop of the New Hampshire Episcopal Diocese. As a result of Robinson's ordination the faith of 76 million Anglicans across the world will be tested, and the churches of the world may be divided.

On Sunday night from 4 to 8 o'clock, over 250 Episcopalians from across the country joined together at Durham Evangelical Church to pray for their faith that they say is being challenged by New Hampshire Diocese members. Outside of the church a large crowd of New Hampshire Anglicans gathered together to give praise to God and to pray for those inside the church who might have lost their church to the split but have not lost their faith.

Bishop David Bena, of the Albany Diocese, said he is standing up against the New Hampshire Diocese along with over 30 other Bishops from all over North America, to tell the people who elected Robinson that the ordination of Robinson is a blatant defiance of God's word and will not be allowed by the worldwide community of Anglicans.

The ordination of Reverend Gene Robinson has caused the Episcopal Church to be divided in two. A letter from the opposing Bishops of North America states that the Ordination of Reverend Gene Robinson will divide the church and that, "This consecration poses dramatic contradictions to the historic faith and discipline of the Church."

Bishop Bena explained that the Episcopal faith upholds beliefs that come directly from the Bible and

are God's Law. The Bible clearly states that homosexuality is a sin, such as in Leviticus 18:22; "Don't lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable." Bishop Bena said that even though homosexuality is a sin, all sinners are loved by God and the people of the church.

The Reverend Dr. Kendall Harmon from South Carolina, representing the American Anglican Council, told a story about a few members of a New Hampshire church that disagreed with the ordination of Robinson, and met to discuss his ordination. A member of the New Hampshire Diocese followed the group



Episcopalians gathered at the Durham Evangelical Church. (photo by Casey Streelman)

to their meeting place; and when the member was asked to leave, he said to the group regarding their beliefs, "You all have nowhere to go."

Bishop David Bena, along with 30 other Bishops of the American Diocese, will appeal the Ordination of Reverend Robinson to the American Bishops Council with the support of over 76 million world Anglicans and the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Until the appeal to the Bishops Council, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, and many more Episcopal Bishops will not recognize the ordination of Reverend Gene Robinson.

continued from page 3

fire, tossing beer bottles in the air, or firing off fireworks at unsuspecting cops, the students ran amuck, displaying what others felt as very immature and irresponsible behavior.

"The riot, in my eyes, was very juvenile," Amberle Lustgraaf-Fant, a senior at ORHS, proclaimed. "There are much more important issues plaguing our nation, and we have students starting a riot over a game that won't even be remembered in a year."

Other students, however, had a somewhat lighter take on the riots. "I thought they were awesome," said Heidi Vetterling, a senior at ORHS. "Nothing cool ever happens in Durham, New Hampshire."

When the dust had finally settled, the Durham Police Department had made eight arrests, including seven UNH students. "There was no huge damage to the area," said Durham police chief Dave Kurz. Chief Kurz went on to say that there was only minor damage like potted plants being broken and small incidents like that. UNH president Ann Weaver Hart sent a letter to every student's parents asking them to please talk to their kids about the seriousness of these riots.

ORHS senior Jenny Rigtterink told MOR of her experience with the riots at UNH. "When UNH lost that hockey game, I thought it was somewhat ironic because there were people stomping on cars and there was this seething mass of inebriated humanity all around me. And some brave soul had a huge American flag waving it in the middle of the crowd."

With two riots occurring in the same year, a college has to wonder when there is a problem. "We've truly been looking for ways to prevent incidents such as

this," Durham Police Chief Dave Kurz said. Indeed, the police department tried some different ways to try and stop these occurrences. "We tried (a tactic) by putting no cops on Main Street," Kurz went on, but alas, this certain strategy didn't work.

The department is now faced with the undaunted task of conjuring up a new idea that would help the force keep these "gatherings" to an actual gathering, and not a straight out riot. Emily Nelson summed up an idea that could prevent future confrontations with the police and UNH sports fans. "Let's just pray that UNH has an undefeated season this year".

Fancy schmancy turkey magic

by Beth Santos  
Newswriter

The true meaning of Thansksgiving?  
Food.  
Food.  
And of course, for all you adventure-seekers, the ultimate.

Ben is Back!  
by Casey Streelman  
Newswriter

“OUT OF THE FIRE AND INTO THE FRYING PAN,” is the new battle cry of the 25 dedicated employees of Benjamin’s Restaurant on Jenkins Court in Durham, NH. Last January Benjamin’s Restaurant was closed due to a fire in the kitchen. The Durham Fire Department reported the fire was caused by the “spontaneous combustion of clean dry linnens” on a stainless steel shelf. This tragedy occurred four days after a large renovation project was completed, which included new carpeting and new computer systems. There was over \$200,000 in fire damage sustained to the restaurant in the January fire that took nine months to clean up. The reopening was made possible by dedicated employees who volunteered to help. This undoubtedly was a reflection of the business philosophy practiced by Benjamin’s owner, Debbie Warren; that she would not ask her employees to do anything that she wouldn’t do, including bussing the tables. Benjamin’s is now open for business with a new “fiery” passion for fresh home-cooked food. They have added many new items to the menu such as Grilled Swordfish Steak, Lobster Ravioli, and the owner’s favorite, Crab Cakes with large succulent pieces of Maryland Crab. The lounge area, where the bar is located, is meant to be a family place with four large TV’s, chess, backgammon, and other games for parents to enjoy a relaxing evening with their children. In addition to the new TV’s and menu items, Benjamin’s will be starting a Preferred Customer Program that lets the server know what their favorite food is, what drinks they usually order, and when their birthday is, all to give the customer a friendlier dining experience. Debbie Warren purchased Benjamin’s in 1988 from the Clark family. Debbie’s number one reason for purchasing the restaurant was to provide for her family and be there for them when they needed her. Her personal fulfillment comes from her love of solving the puzzle and challenges of

Food.  
But did you know that while you’re putting on the pounds, you’re also increasing your physical and mental health?  
That’s right, young’uns. Thanksgiving is on the way, and it might just save your life. Studies show that positive experiences, as well as expressing gratitude and being a “generally happy person”, can lead to a longer life expectancy- and beyond that, there’s much,

much more.  
A group of Oxford students in 1984 made a list of their 11 most positive events and rated “going on holi-day” as number four. Cough, cough, Thanksgiving vacation, cough, cough. According to The Psychology of Happiness by Michael Argyle, positive life experiences such as these “predict[ed] reduced blood pressure and hence reduce[d] risk of hypertension in adolescents.” Argyle also noted that unhappy people have a lower threshold of pain.

In 1989, DJ Deeg and RJ van Zonneveld, two Dutch psychologists at the Erasmus University Medical School in the Netherlands, studied 3,149 Dutch individuals over the age of 65, and discovered that “70-year-old men lived 20 months longer if they were one standard deviation above average for happiness. (Argyle)”

What, pray tell, does this mean?  
It means, dude, that the happier guy is gonna live longer.

According to [www.wcg.org](http://www.wcg.org), Arthur Stone conducted an experiment in 1987 in which he gave 30 students a protein that tracked their immune system activity for a little over two months. He discovered that when the students were in bad moods, their bodies would produce fewer antibodies, which would increase the chance of the student getting sick. Consequently, students in good moods produced more antibodies, which fought off foreign substances much more easily.

Healthandage.com and an article in a recent issue of Psychosomatic Medicine also described that happy people are less hostile, more forgiving, and more focused on helping the world around them. “People who help others experience better mental health,” noted PM’s lead researcher Carolyn Schwartz.

“[Gratitude] turns what we have into more than enough,” Melody Beattie explained in an article on [wholisticresearch.com](http://wholisticresearch.com) entitled “Gratidude is the Attitude”. “[It’s] an existence into real life and disconnected situations into important and beneficial lessons.”

So don’t forget to give thanks this holiday, because enjoying that turkey can, in the long run, make you a better person with a longer life span.  
Turkey power!!!!

WORLD NEWS

by Carleton Hanson and Tim O’Keefe  
Newswriters

BERLIN- German police arrested an escaped convict who was posing as a traffic policeman in a stolen car. The prisoner said that he had made \$153 dollars carrying out routine traffic controls.  
*courtesy of yahoo.com*

TORONTO - Over 320 men and women turned out to participate in the World Rock, Paper, Scissors Championship, held in downtown Toronto. Toronto’s own Rob Krueger walked away with the title of World RPS champion and \$3,825 in prize money.  
*courtesy of yahoo.com*

TOKYO- A Japanese man was arrested recently after he was caught with 440 stolen women’s left shoes. It is currently unclear why he chose the left shoe.  
*courtesy of cnn.com*

PARIS- A French police station is presently holding 43 lawn gnomes which lay unclaimed after the city’s “gnome return day.” 75 kidnapped gnomes were recovered in 2001 after being “freed” by the Garden Gnome Liberation Front. Only 32 were taken back by their owners.  
*courtesy of cnn.com*

LONDON- A British couple feel they have been forced to move due to the new name of their street, which was recently renamed Butt Hole road.  
*courtesy of yahoo.com*

business.  
Benjamin’s is a nice restaurant where parents can bring their kids in shorts and T-shirts to relax and not worry about how their children will behave. With Warren’s commitment to treating her customers as if they were over at her house for a fresh homemade meal, you know you will be welcomed.

The Grand Reopening of Benjamin’s will be taking place the first two weeks of November and will feature special menu items and complimentary Grand Reopening T-shirts.



## IN JAIL: "SNIPPER" SUSPECT PAYS HIS DUES

By Beth Santos  
News writer

On Thursday, November 6, Jeffrey Gelinas, the prime suspect for the alleged "snipper" case, stood before the Durham District Court to plead guilty on two counts of loitering and prowling.

According to a past article in the Foster's Daily Democrat, a neighbor saw Gelinas peering into an apartment at 4 am. He then fled into the woods when police arrived. Police dogs found him soon after.

Gelinas was charged \$1,000 for each of the two offenses. He will receive \$500 back from each fine once he visits a psychologist.

Gelinas then returned to the Hillsborough County Jail in Manchester where he is incarcerated under a \$50,000 bail for a misdemeanor in stalking. Police have not yet found enough evidence to charge him for the seven accounts of snipping clothes off of sleeping women, of which he insists he is not guilty.

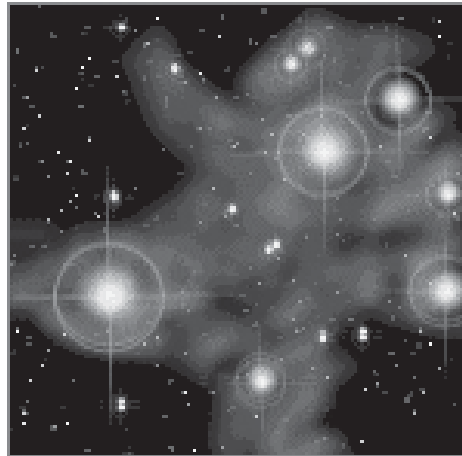
*All information borrowed from articles in the Fosters Daily Democrat and the Portsmouth Herald.*



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## SEEING STARS NO MORE

By Carleton Hanson  
News writer

The 70's were quite the decade. Along with new hair-styles, groovy trends, and funky tunes, the 70's brought something else to Oyster River High School. They brought us a planetarium.

The ORHS planetarium was the brain-child of Ellie Milliken, a science teacher who worked at Oyster River from the late 50's to the early 80's.

"She was the one who really pushed for a planetarium," said Carol Gephart, who started teaching Earth Science in 1987. "She was responsible for most of the fund-raising efforts and helped choose the specifics of the actual construction of the planetarium."

At the time of its christening, the planetarium was truly a marvelous piece of hardware. "It was a great teaching tool," said Greg Gephart, who taught Earth Science from 1986-1990. "To begin with, it could easily fit an entire class of 25. It had all of the visible stars and their locations and could show the movement of them. You could even input the date and the planetarium would position the stars where they would be at that time."

The planetarium even had a class devoted to it. "Planetarium Class" consisted of learning to use the equipment and then putting on shows for elementary school students. "The classes loved it," said Mr. Gephart.

As time went on, however, the planetarium began to show signs of wear and tear. "More and more things kept breaking," said Mr. Gephart. What was worse, there was no way to replace the components that broke; the planetarium was simply too old.

"We couldn't get the parts we needed," said C. Gephart. "There was no one who still made them."

It was this, along with space issues (the kind on Earth that is), that led to the eventual end of the planetarium. As ORHS construction began, one of the first things to go was the planetarium. After the AD office was demolished, the athletic staff needed a new base of operations, and that base was the planetarium's room.

But why were there no plans for a planetarium in the new building? There are two major reasons: cost and space.

"When we were planning out the new building, we did not have enough space for a planetarium," said ORHS principal Don Lafferty. "I have hopes that the new auditorium might be able to be used instead for some things. I absolutely think we should have a planetarium."

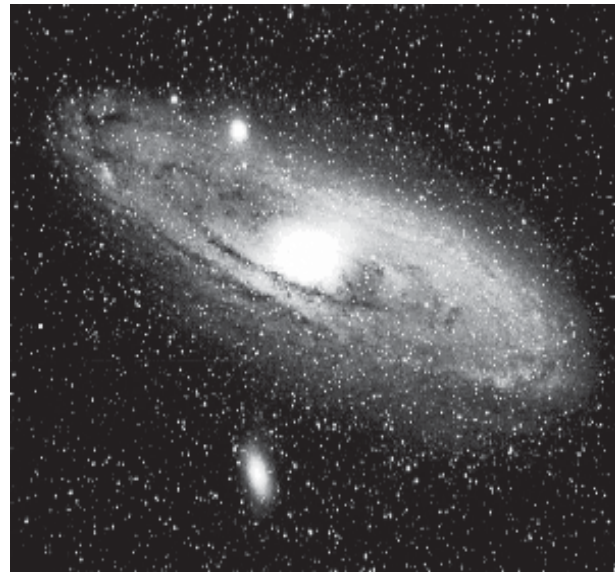
Money would also be an issue. "Nowadays, it would be almost impossible to fund-raise the amount of money we would need," Mr. Gephart said.

While many feel that it would be "cool" or beneficial, most understand that the cons of a new planetarium are impossible to ignore. "If it was affordable and we had the space, I think it would be great to have," Mr. Gephart commented. "I realize however that we do not have the space or the money for one right now."

Doug Knight, who taught Science at Oyster River before accepting a position at Berwick Academy and was a strong supporter of a planetarium in the new school, pointed out that "it was difficult to justify building a room that would not be utilized every period of every day. If the only use for the space was for astronomy, then it was used only 5 times a week. - Not a very cost effective move."

In the end, all we are left with of the planetarium are memories and a large piece of plywood in the AD office.

Matt Halliwell, a junior at ORHS, commented "it was a little off-centered and sometimes the stars went off in different directions, but it was still cool."



*Snackbar continued from page 3*

with up to a year in jail. The fact that the money was stolen from charity does not make the penalty any lighter. After multiple offers to repay the club for the lost sum, Summers decided that it would be best to start business up again. "I'm happy that we're going to reopen. People wanted a reopening so badly. The general consensus was that we didn't want to roll over and die."

Levesque wishes to caution students who leave valuables unattended. In addition to the snackbar theft, items such as CDs, shoes, money, walkmans, and even a laptop have been stolen from lockers and benches in the locker rooms. He stresses the importance of giving items like these to teachers who can lock them away safely.

And so, the Interact Club marches onward- however, they move ten times more cautiously than before. Selling only the bare minimum for the rest of the season, including hot apple cider, coffee, and peanut M&Ms, the club is taking every precaution to insure the safety of their goods. "We should get a whole load of padlocks or something," commented customer Will Mullin.

Just Another Brick in the Wall?  
Local Union Workers Protest  
Masons

by ~~Emily Nelson~~  
News Writer

"We want the community to realize what's happening," say protesters and Portsmouth Union members Paul Hamel and Paul Rouillard. Okay, so exactly what *is* happening? What's with the inflatable giant rat on those fliers some of us received the other day? More importantly, is our school ever going to be finished?

By now, mostly everyone at our lovely institution of higher learning knows that there was a strike. But what you don't know is: a) it's not really a strike and b) what the big deal about exploiting foreigners is. So let's start with a.

According to Will Collette, strategic researcher for the Laborers' New England Region Organizing Fund, "A strike is a very specific type of action where the workers employed by a company walk out in a protest and refuse to return to work until they reach some agreement with the employer." What was going on at our school is called an "informational picket line," with the purpose of (get this) informing and educating.

Now for the dirty details. The rat on the fliers is supposed to represent D'Agostino Associates, the company that's doing all the brick work on the new gym and etc. A lot of foreigners work for them and get paid "downward of \$14 an hour with no medical benefits," says Paul Rouillard. The average is around \$16 an hour with medical insurance, and in Massachusetts masons get paid \$22 an hour with medical. So it would seem as though the D'Agostino workers aren't getting their fair share. Tricia Canelli was inconveniently unavailable for comment.

What does the Laborers' New England Region Organizing Region want you to know? They simply want you to be aware that contractors aren't being treated fairly. If you want to help, Mr. Collette aks that you e-mail D'Agostino (triciacanelli@dagostinomasonry.com) to let your opinion be known about the issue they're raising. And you can all rest assured that in fact our school will be finished...someday.

**SENIORS!**

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Wondering what to do after graduation?  
Want to see more of the world than Durham?

How about being a foreign exchange student? Rotary Youth Exchanges are open to students ages 15 - 19 who demonstrate leadership in their community and have flexibility and willingness to try new things. There are more than 160 countries to choose from. During your exchange you'll live with a host family and attend school.

If you're interested, talk with Mrs. Kucera in Rm. 113 (Rotary exchange student to Limoges, France in 1992.) Or contact the local Rotary club for details.

**Retraction: "Unbalanced Grading Scale" by Casey Streelman**

It has been brought to my attention that one of the paragraphs in "Unbalanced Grading Scale" in issue one of the Mouth of the River was not clearly worded. The paragraph stated that a C student could have a better chance of getting into College than a B student. This statement was not contributed by Gary Cilley or anyone affiliated to the University. The possibility of a C student having a better chance of acceptance into a University would arise if the C student had many advanced placement classes, and many extra-curricular activities, while the B student took easy classes and had no extra-curricular activities. I apologize if this confusion caused any negative opinions of Gary Cilley or the UNH Admissions Department.

The MOR News Department would like to wish all our devoted readers a very Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy your long weekend!



If you could have anything for thanksgiving dinner, what would it be?

By Patrick Melvin and Brandon Lonstein



"Bagle Bites and Jello cubes."  
- Bobby Lambert



"Mac and cheese." - Spielman



"Taco salad."  
- Cy Watson



"A two-year-old baby."  
- Ben "Pirate Eye" Johnson



"A buttload of ham." - Phil Carter



"Chinese food." - Emily Seivert



"Rice Crispy treats." - Racheal Poppke



"Shrimp cocktail to start, followed by a pound and a half lobster, a 9-10 oz. filet, and end it off with a large piece of lemon meringue pie."  
- Mr. Lafferty



"Pancakes." - Billy Long



## Can You Accept It?

by Erica Laue  
features writer

"Fag church," one sign says. "One way to hell," says another, with an arrow pointing towards the church. Still other signs have crude depictions of men having sex with each other. The protestors shout at the people going inside, sometimes sounding reasonable, other times letting loose with streams of obscenities. The response to the ordination of V. Gene Robinson, a homosexual, was, needless to say, not entirely positive.

Although the opposition to homosexuality in Oyster River High School is not nearly this extreme, it exists. That may come as a shock to some people, but it's the truth. "Everyone thinks they're accepting until they're confronted by [a gay person]," said junior John Eustace. Eustace is a member of ORHS's Gay/Straight Alliance, called the GSA.

Though it is a fairly popular club, having had fifty members in its first year, many people aren't aware of it or what it does. Students tend to agree with freshman Katrina Brink when she says, "I don't know anything about [the GSA]."

Eustace said that the club is a place where both heterosexuals and homosexuals can work to increase acceptance within the community.

Recently the GSA put up posters in honor of National Coming Out Week. It came as a dismay to the members of the club when someone, still unidentified, defaced the posters with slurs against homosexuals. But is it really surprising?

According to Pam Raiford, the faculty advisor for the GSA, it is and it isn't. "To some degree, [Oyster River] is accepting," she said. "But there is a line between mean and joking, and open community homophobia."

Still, the presence of the GSA "has helped," Raiford said. When it was first proposed four or five years ago by Aysha Woodard, the GSA had very little support from the administration and students. Now, Raiford says, the GSA seems to be more accepted in the school and community.

Eustace disagrees somewhat, believing that there are too many misconceptions about the club and its objectives. "It's not a support group," he said. "It works so that there can be support and protection."

The GSA's current project is putting together a presentation for the faculty to increase awareness of what the GSA is trying to accomplish. Accord-



Picture taken by Tom Richardson

ing to Raiford, the GSA did the same thing when it started. "Most of the teachers were happy about it," she said.

But Eustace feels that the community is still not as accepting as it could be. "I am really [censored] about the posters," he said. He said that that incident is just one way for the school community to show its homophobic colors.

What about the rest of the community, however? At rallies outside the Whittemore Center on the day of the ordination ceremony, the anti-gay protestors were countered by a strong crowd of anti-hate protestors. One of them, a woman who wished to be identified only as "Michelle," said that she was "sad that kids get brainwashed" into believing in hate.

So what's the verdict? Is Oyster River, and Durham, an accepting community towards homosexuals? Unfortunately, the jury is still out. However, Christina Stark, a junior, did have this to say on the subject: "In an ideal world, the GSA would be obsolete."



Picture taken by Tom Richardson

## Commentary: A Lesson in Preaching

Two hours spent in the company of anti-gay protestors

by Erica Laue  
features writer

"This is a reprobate nation," Paulette Phelps told me. "The end is near."

To be honest, I was shocked. I had expected the members of the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) to be America-loving, preachy, violent people that at least *seemed* insane. Instead, I was confronted by a woman who spoke calmly and rationally, standing on an American flag and holding a sign that said "Thank God for 9/11." She also believed that the second coming was...well, coming soon.

It was akin to listening to a Nazi explain, in a casual manner, the reasons behind the extermination of the Jews.

On assignment for the Mout of the River, I was supposed to follow the WBC around as they picketed local churches. Since they are famed for the violence surrounding their pickets, I was afraid for my safety. I think I was anticipating fire-breathing, larger-than-life religious vigilantes.

As we walked and drove around, I heard many things that made me angry: "God hates fags." "Repent or perish." "Robinson's [the homosexual Episcopalian bishop] whole lifestyle is wrapped around sin." But no one fought, no one grew violent.

They accepted me into their fold, offering me hot chocolate and talking to me as though I agreed with their opinions. Steve Drain, in reference to a young man who protested the WBC, told me, "You heard that guy earlier. God has abandoned him."

It was revolting, the superior air that these people exuded. They were relishing the way they shook up the community. I wanted to grab each of them by the shoulders and shake them and tell them "God is not like this! God doesn't hate!"

But that would make me as bad as they. I was upset that they were preaching their opinions as the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Why should I turn around and do the same?

The only opinion I think I can express without being hypocritical is that such an extreme hate is wrong. It's okay to have different opinions, and even to debate them, but hating someone with the passion that the WBC hates homosexuals can't be right.

If people continue to hate like this, if we can't learn to put up with each other, then maybe the apocalypse is near. It would be called world war. And gay or straight, religious or atheist, no one could survive it.



# Put the Atmosphere on Your X-mas Wish List

by Emily Nelson  
*features writer*

It was 11:30 on a Saturday night. I was standing in a small, sweltering, smoke-saturated room surrounded by strangers all at least 5 years older than me. I'd been on my feet since 6:30 and my knees were sore from rocking back and forth to a really repetitively crappy hip-hop group called the Micronuts. Why was I putting myself through this torture? In one word: Atmosphere.

The Minneapolis hip-hop group is on its Seven's Travels tour to promote its new album called (what a coinkydink) Seven's Travels. I was at a venue called Lupo's in Providence, Rhode Island. So yeah, I, my dear friend Janis Watson, her brother Cy, and his friend sophomore Ben Sulsky had trekked a looong way to become susceptible to all the second hand smoke. Though that was a bit of a turn-off, overall it's safe to say we had a blast.

"They swarm with the bees and diseases and even if your DJ was Jesus you could never 'funk' with these kids," said Cy when asked his opinion on the concert. I'd have to agree. The group, made up of emcee Slug and producer ANT, played songs from their albums God Loves Ugly, Lucy Free, Overcast, and obviously Seven's Travels. My personal favorite song they performed was Modern Man's Hustle. If you've never heard it, I highly recommend listening to it.

Slug did a really good job of getting the crowd involved, with hand-waving and what have you. I'd never been to a concert before so I didn't really know what to expect. I must say that I was very impressed with how pumped I felt afterwards, as dorky as that sounds. I left with a sense of respect for bands. It's pretty tough to psych up a crowd that's been forced to listen to numerous opening acts for hour upon hour...okay...that was a bit of an exaggeration. And actually one of the opening acts, Brother Ali, was really gnarly. He's this fat albino guy who raps about being ugly. Come on, anyone can appreciate that.

But anyway, for those who have never listened to Atmosphere or are wondering what a show is like, I'd definitely say go go go. If you have listened to Atmosphere and you think they're lame or girly, Slug has only one thing to say to you: "We don't make hip-hop for girls, we make hip-hop for manic-depressive girls."

# Spanish vs. French: the Final Showdown

Erica Laue  
*features writer*

The 2003-2004 school year has commenced with confusion and conflict, starting with the senior t-shirts issue and encompassing the newest additions to our building. But perhaps the biggest conflict of all has been the raging rivalry between the "Frenchies" and "Followers of Senor."

The rift between the French students and the Spanish students has been present for years. "It's been around since 877 AD," Spanish teacher Tom Hausmann, also called Senor, commented. "It began with Monsieur Lord's great-great-great-great-great grandfather and my great-great-great-great-great grandmother."

The problem finally erupted in the two language's competing bake sales, where the Frenchies sold \$90.00 in baked goodsand the Followers of Senor sold \$70.00 worth. Loyal Spanish Club members believe that the reason for the Frenchies' success was that they fed off the bake sale fever generated by the Spanish sale. "They copied us," said Dina Tsukrov, a senior in Spanish V.

The situation is comparable to the dispute between the Palestinians and the Israelis, in that each language believes in the stereotypes of the other. As Tsukrov put it, "We know the language better than they do, we work harder than they do...and we have tests while they party."

The parties have long been a sore point with the Followers of Senor. But the Frenchies believe that the party atmosphere only enhances the appeal of the language. "They're educational because they teach you how to eat," commented former French student Betsy Harvey.

Besides the obvious cultural differences, stylistic differences make peace between the languages difficult. "In Spanish, you pronounce all the letters," said junior Andrea Bingham. Zsuzsi Fekete, another junior, countered with "French is rhythmic."

Even the tri-lingual teachers have trouble being neutral. Stephen Lord teaches both French and Spanish, and though he claims to like both languages equally, he admitted that "I have always thought French was very pretty, very beautiful to hear." If he could only speak one of the languages for the rest of his life, he said, he would choose Esperanto.

Senior Liz Daly, a French V student, also talked about the sound of a language and how it affects her preference. "French is a lot less angry," she said. "Besides, Spanish is just a stupid word."

It seems as though there might never be a truce between the warring languages. But who knows? Maybe someday there will be a Follower of Senor and a Frenchie who will shake hands in paix...or paz...better make it Esperanto, and call it "paco."

# Overheard

Compiled by the MOR staff. Watch what you're saying...we're always listening!

"I already said that already!"  
Evelyn Yip

"You have colored markers?"  
Alex Lamb

"Watch where you're walking- you may run into a guy on a ladder."  
Kathleen Kilmain

"Let's compare it to the Germans vs. the Nazis."  
Brandon Lonstein

"I only wear makeup on weekends to look good."  
Mike Troy

"It's like steel cotton candy."  
Leon Hadley

"Ping Pong? What's that?"  
Betsy Harvey

"'Distance equals rate times time' is a third-grade formula."  
Laura Parsons

"I read it but I didn't read it."  
Anonym ous junior

"I apparently hijacked a fire truck and it's mine."  
Ethan Roy-Webb

"You guys are lucky I have cat-like reflexes!"  
Liz Daly

"It's a good thing pockets were invented because it gives construction workers a place to put their hands, because they certainly aren't carrying tools."  
Donald Lafferty

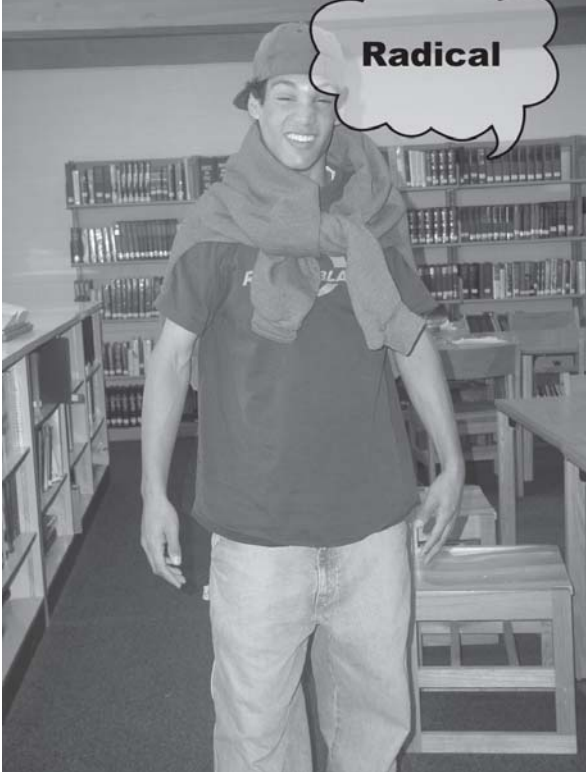
"Most people in society would agree, but that's just me."  
Anonymous senior

"I know kung fu."  
Neo





By Patrick





Melvi

abunga  
Man

Wicked

Hot-Dogging

Freestyle Extreme New School Chairing





20 Questions with a Freshman: Kelsey Cross

by Patrick Melvin and Brandon Lonstein  
*features writers*

**Full Name:**  
Kelsey Louise Cross  
**Date of Birth:**  
March 3, 1989  
**Favorite Food:**  
Fettuccini Alfredo  
**Who is Your Hero?**  
Brittney Cross  
**Music of Choice:**  
Country  
**Favorite Season:**  
Winter  
**Favorite thing about High School:**  
Overlaying Fields  
**Favorite High School Class:**

Study Hall  
**Favorite Teacher:**  
Mrs. Perry  
**Favorite High School Athlete:**  
Amy Maurer  
**Red Sox or Yankees:**  
SOX  
**Mary-Kate or Ashley:**  
Mary-Kate  
**Step by Step or Full House:**  
Step By Step  
**Pirates of the Caribbean or Lord of the Rings:**  
Pirates  
**Hamburger or Cheeseburger:**  
Cheese  
**Charlie, Martin, or Emilio:**  
Emilio  
**Mighty Ducks II or Mighty Ducks III:**  
D II  
**Meaning of Life:**  
Emily Murphy  
**Sin30:**

30  
**What is your personal best for number of hot dogs eaten in 12 minutes:**  
One



by Caitlin Regan  
*features writer*

Who Is Our Master?

“One is a buzzer, one is a beep, and one sounds like somebody is beating a cat behind a wall.” Junior John Eustace is talking about none other than our multiple bell system.

By far one of the biggest topics of conversation in the hallways has been about the bells or sometimes lack thereof.

“[They also] keep changing,” added junior Doug Wilcox.

One might think that the office has a bell compilation CD of all the different bell tunes and they are trying them out to see which one gets the fewest complaints. To my surprise, Mr Lafferty confirmed that rumor. “We have about ten to twelve bell tones and we are going to try them out, once the entire school gets hooked up.”

Right now the office is having some problems with the bells because it is a temporary system.



They also have to get the bells to ring in three sections: the old part of the school, the new part, and the modulares.

“The bells give me a headache,” complained junior Erica Talbot.

“What complaints haven’t I heard? ‘I can’t hear them, they’re too loud, too long,’” explained Mr. Lafferty.

Are people becoming too dependent on the bells though? When someone walks into class late, their excuse is “I couldn’t hear the bell.” Now that we have the new synchronized clocks, maybe we won’t need the bells.

“There is a school in NH, I can’t remember which one, but they don’t go by bells anymore,” Mr Lafferty informed me. “I think that is really neat. I would like to try to do that.”

Through all the multiple complaints about the new school and the bells, Mrs. Kucera remains optimistic. “As long as there is one bell that rings when it is supposed to, and its sound doesn’t make me want to cringe. That’s all I care about.”

Do not fret: the bell system should be up and running soon. Once the “core” of the school gets finished the wires for the bells can run all through the building. Mr. Lafferty assured us that the bells “should be working by mid-December.”



What’s Next at ORHS?

by Brandon Lonstein  
*features writer*

After all the days spent in court, countless appeals and a handful of votes we finally have a new school...sort of. I would hope that one would be able to notice that many parts of the school are still under construction and are not in use.

Since the first day of school we have been able to use the newly constructed “tower” classrooms. Recently, after much speculation, we have been granted admission into the new science wing, including 8 very impressive new classrooms. Each is fully equipped with fume hoods, sinks galore, suspended power outlets and 360 degree pivoting chairs. So can it get any better? Maybe.

Perhaps the real question at hand may be will it be finished on time? “No way,” says Principal Don Lafferty. “I really don’t see it happening. It’s an ambitious goal and I can’t see it happening without some 4-8 or 12-4 shifts being worked.”

As of now the projected completion date is October 18, 2004. This includes hallways linking the science classrooms with the tower, the gym (complete with locker rooms), and the auditorium.

Many rumors have surrounded the construction, such as “the mortar on the gym was done incorrectly and they had to tear it down.” Absolutely false and totally ridiculous. There was in fact some truth, according to Don Lafferty, in that some mortar failed the tests but only a small portion and

| ITEM                                  | START DATE     | DURATION                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Painting gym walls                    | 10/23/03       | 6 days                              |
| Backboards in gym                     | 10/29/03       | 5 days                              |
| Gym motorized curtains                | 11/5/03        | 5 days                              |
| Gym floor                             | 11/12/03       | 15 days                             |
| Gym bleachers                         | 12/3/03        | 3 days                              |
| Athletic equipment                    | 12/3/03        | 3 days                              |
| <b>WHOLE GYM</b>                      | <b>8/29/03</b> | <b>85 DAYS</b><br><b>(12/24/03)</b> |
| Other fun things to be excited about: |                |                                     |
| Cafeteria                             | 12/25/03       | 102 days (5/14/04)                  |
| Main office                           | 7/2/03         | 321 days (8/27/04)                  |
| Guidance                              | 6/14/04        | 68 days (9/15/04)                   |
| Library                               | 6/14/04        | 56 days (8/30/04)                   |
| Multi-purpose room                    | 6/14/04        | 56 days (8/30/04)                   |

**WHOLE SCHOOL’S COMPLETION:**  
**OCTOBER 18, 2004**

it was in the wall underneath the staircase in the science wing. Because it failed does not mean it could randomly crumble. Small portions failed to meet earthquake code.

As noise persists, construction workers and equipment crowd the halls, and four different bells sound, progress is slowly being made. Will it be done by the 24th? Only time will tell.

Scary Movie 3

by Brandon Lonstein: *Movie Guru*  
*features writer*

After watching the first two movies of this trilogy I was anticipating the third with high expectations. These movies are simply hilarious.

Though the concept of the movie is still the same; taking some of the years highest grossing films and make fun of them in any and every way possible, a couple of changes have been made prior to the production and release of this film. The first two movies were directed by the Wayans brothers. They no doubt had audiences laughing from Boston to Hollywood, but the third film had a new man in charge: David Zucker. One of the creators of “Airplane,” “Naked Gun,” and “Police Academy.”

Easily some of the funniest parodies of our time, and it looks like Zucker can add Scary Movie 3 to his list of masterpieces because this movie is laugh-out-loud funny.

This movie once again stars Anna Faris as “Cindy Campbell,” a TV news anchor that finds her self in

the middle of an alien invasion that is believed to be linked to a video tape that kills people seven days after its viewed. The aliens were first reported at a small farm owned by Charlie Sheen, who plays a parody of Mel Gibson’s character from “Signs.” Other names include Queen Latifah, Ja Rule, Anthony Anderson, Simon Rex, Darryl Hughley, and Leslie Neilson.

The movie throws punches mainly at “Signs” and “The Ring,” but “The Matrix,” “8 Mile,” “The Sixth Sense,” “The Others,” and “Bruce Almighty” were also targets.

This film also incorporates a hysterical Budweiser scene and opens with Jenny McCarthy and Pamela Anderson beating each other up. Michael Jackson is also poked fun at and actually has threatened to sue.

This is not a good movie. You will not walk out of theater wanting to buy it the first day it comes out on DVD. It’s a stupid movie and that’s why it is funny. Its purpose is to make you laugh and that’s exactly what it does. Some of the slapstick humor may have been overdone but other than that it was



well put together. Jokes were integrated with a clear plotline, which is something most movies in this category fail to do.

I would say this is the best of the three “Scary Movies” and a good fix if you ever find your self needing a good laugh.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Oyster River Students and Faculty,

I am writing this letter to inform you about the current poverty issues that so many face today and that you may be unaware of. The poverty rate has recently increased from 14% in 1973 to 17% in 2002. Years ago, 1 in 6 children were poor; today it is 1 in 5. Children living in poverty at early ages can be in danger of getting everyday illnesses that can be life threatening to them, without money for proper medical care. Today, many countries are poorer than they were 30 years ago.

Although America continues to grow and make technological advancements we are doing little to help the poverty issue. America, one of the most industrialized nations, was placed last in the 2000 UNICEF collection. In the New Hampshire Sunday News paper, the U.S. was given an improvement grade of a D for our action in the past year to help fight against poverty. The Watchtower magazine recently had an article on poverty that stated that in the Philippines 1/3 of the population is living on less than \$1 a day. Additionally, the World Bank stated that 57% of the world's population is living on less than \$2 a day. These measly amounts are being earned in just a few minutes by teens working an average part-time job in America. Sadly, in other countries adults cannot even earn this amount and they are forced to rummage through garbage or work basically as slaves just to feed their families.

Housing is not the priority in most cases, so

many live in shacks, while others only possess a piece of cardboard or plastic to sleep on. What makes this worse is the fact that the United Nations Human Development reported that, "the richest 5% of the world's people have 114 times more than the poorest 5%." In 2002 millions of executives became extremely wealthy and lavishly spent their millions on unnecessary things. For example, many remember the CEO's of Tyco that spent their millions of stolen company money on such things as a \$6,000 shower curtain, a \$15,000 umbrella stand, a \$2 million birthday party in Italy, and thousands more on a trash can, and gold coat hangers. Remembering that many people are living on \$2 a day, the money spent on that trash alone could have fed someone for more than a year. It is a sickening thought.

The world has been overtaken with greed. Even I cannot say that I have done much to help fight this growing problem, although now I am more aware. I hope that by writing this letter I have also helped you to become more informed and that next time you have an opportunity to help out in anyway, you will.

Simply bringing in a can of food during a food drive can mean a lot to someone. So continue going on with your day, but keep in mind what economist Adam Smith said: "No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the greater part of the members are poor and miserable."

Sincerely,  
Kerri Burt

lost under him than the last 11 presidents combined. Right now, there are 9 million Americans who are looking for jobs, and in August alone 93,000 jobs disappeared. This is an issue made more complicated with the fact that the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) has skyrocketed 7% in the last quarter. Our government's way of dealing this problem is giving the wealthy tax cuts. How will that help the average jobless American get back to work?

With state governments in financial crisis and Bush doing nothing to help them, public universities tuition skyrocketed 14%, the biggest increase in 205 years, according to [www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org). On top of this, some grants and loans funded by the government are being cut. If costs of an already expensive college education are increasing with less help from the government, how can American children continue their education through college? Should the wealthy be the only ones who can get a higher education? Is this a form of socio-economic discrimination?

Not supporting government programs can easily be a good thing. Questioning the government's programs helps you to see beyond the obvious. It is important to take time to look at a government critically and ask yourself if what they are doing is right. What the government does affects you directly and not knowing about their programs only hurts you. And when you question the government, you are giving them an opportunity to correct it for your and other people's benefit.

I may support the next people who take power in America, even though I do not support our current leaders. If that makes me un-American, than so be it. I will continue to question the American government in order that may become a more perfect union.

*We the peoples*

## In Order to Form a More Perfect Union



by Betsy Harvey  
*Op-Ed Writer*

I love the United States of America. We have freedoms that many people in the world can only dream of. We have the best education in the world. We have some of the most beautiful wildness in the world. Our population is diverse. We have the opportunity to achieve our dreams.

Unfortunately, for each of the positive things I listed, a "but . . ." can be added. But . . . what is free to us may be harmful to others. But . . . great education goes to those who can afford it. But . . .

our country's natural beauty is being destroyed. But . . . immigrants have a more difficult time getting jobs. But . . . it costs a lot to achieve your dreams. I say our government isn't doing a good addressing these and other issues. Does that make me un-American?

I have met some wonderful people in my short lifetime. From my experiences, I have come to the conclusion that Americans are generally, nice, decent people just like the majority of the inhabitants across the globe are. I have nothing against Americans. I do, however, have an issue with our government and the courses it has taken in the last few years. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, since George W. Bush took office in 2000, 3.3 million jobs have been lost and more jobs have been



Graphics courtesy of [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).





## If it Can go Wrong it Will and Other Anomalies of Life

by Marissa LaCoursiere

Op-Ed Writer

Ever wonder who first said “If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong”? How about why buttered toast always falls on the buttered side? Or what makes up belly button lint?

These and other experiments don’t win the Nobel Prize, they win the Ig Nobel Prize or “The Ig”. Ig Nobel Prizes go to people who have done something that first makes people laugh, then makes them think, says [www.improb.com](http://www.improb.com). They are also for those achievements that could not, or should not, be reproduced.

One of the ten 2003 Ig Nobel Prize winners went to a group of Australians. John Culvenor received the award for his group’s “Analysis of the Forces Required to Drag Sheep over Various Surfaces.” Their findings: wooden floors with a very slight slope and the planks of the floor should be laid parallel to the direction you are dragging the sheep, have the least friction and cause the least amount of back injuries.

My question: didn’t we already know that? My mom pointed out that this project actually does have social importance: we are already dragging sheep across the best surface, no need to change.

Ok, there is a point to sheep and flooring, but what about Philip Zimbardo and team’s report on “Politicians’ Uniquely Simple Personalities”?

Or Karl Schwärzler’s work to allow people to rent the nation of Liechtenstein for corporate conventions, weddings and other gatherings?

On the other hand, some winners had an even bigger impact on the world.

Everyone knows Murphy’s Law: “If any thing can go wrong, it will go wrong.” But who said it first?

In the 1950’s the Northrop Team at Edwards Air Force Base was researching the effects of high g’s on humans. John Paul Stapp, human guinea pig and “fastest man on earth”, along with Edward Murphy Jr., from another project at Wright Field, are the fathers of Murphy’s Law.

Nick Spark, researched the law’s origins and found that someone wired some sensors wrong. Either Murphy said “If that guy [the assistant who wired the sensors] has any way of making a mistake, He will.” or Stapp said: “If anything can go

wrong he’ll [Murphy] do it.”

George Nicholas who worked with Stapp said that the correct version of Murphy’s law is “If it can happen, it will.”

Consequently Nicholas’ Law is “If a proposed action has any unsatisfactory results, forget about it.” And Stapp’s Ironical Paradox, AKA Stapp’s Law is: “the universal aptitude for ineptitude makes any human accomplishment an incredible miracle.”

I think Stapp’s Law applies directly to the Ig Nobel prizes: the ineptitude of humans will always show up in the way

they spend their free time researching the strangest things in this world.

One more strange researcher is John Trinkaus. Trinkaus observed many things, among them baseball caps, Brussels sprouts and who is most likely to do a Massachusetts stop at certain stop signs.

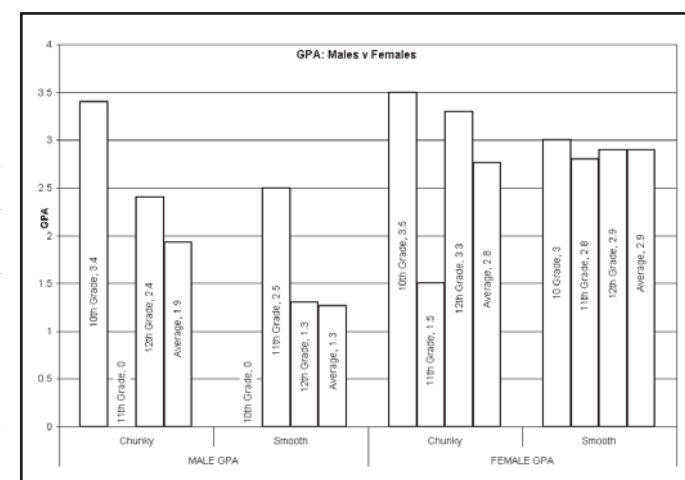
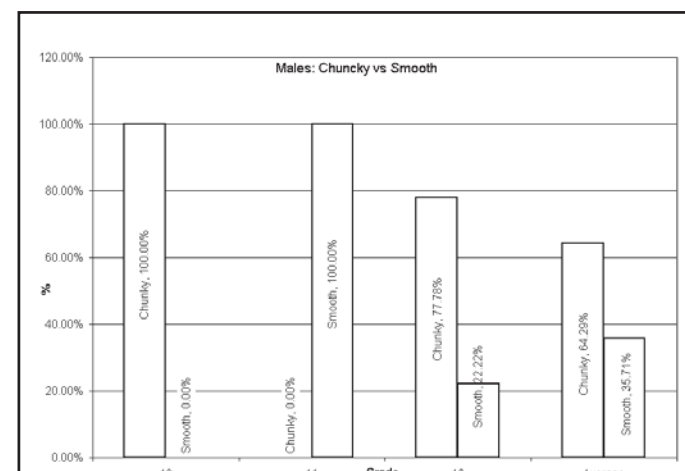
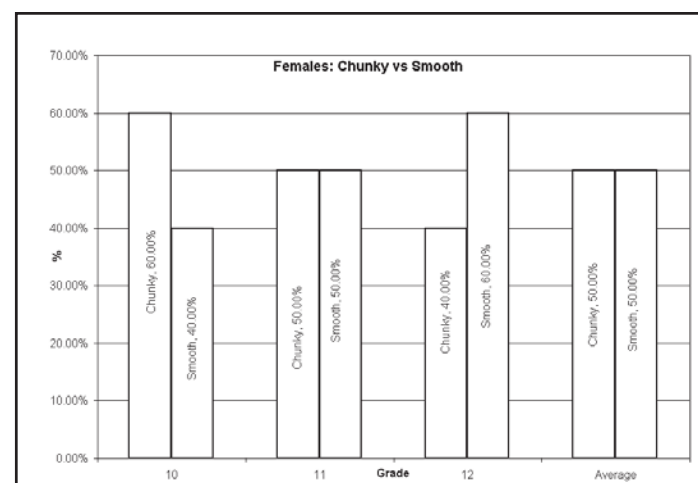
I took his idea and asked sophomores, juniors and seniors their favorite peanut butter, GPA and if they’d had Mr. Baker or Mr. Monahan for a teacher. The following graphs and data tables are my findings.

Eat chunky peanut butter to have a high GPA. It doesn’t matter what teacher you have, although Mr. Baker likes smooth peanut butter and most of his students like chunky while Mr. Monahan likes chunky and his students are split on chunky versus smooth.

This issue of the MOR has been an experiment worthy of an Ig Noble Prize. From nonexistence networks and missing flies to spinning chairs and surveys on peanut butter, we have proven not only that “any human accomplishment [is] an incredible miracle”, but that there really are some experiments that should not and can not be reproduced.

For more information go to [www.improbable.com/ig/ig-top.html](http://www.improbable.com/ig/ig-top.html).

Stapp’s Ironical Paradox, AKA Stapp’s Law is: “the universal aptitude for ineptitude makes any human accomplishment an incredible miracle.”





by Betsy Harvey

Op-Ed Writer

Are girls better than boys? This age-old question has plagued society for as long as we have existed. And now, finally, the answer has become crystal clear: according to *Newsweek* in their May 26, 2003 article titled "The New Gender Gap", "From kindergarten to grad school, boys are becoming the second sex." Most impressively, "Across the country, it seems as if girls have built a kind of scholastic Roman Empire alongside boys' languishing Greece," writes *BusinessWeek's* Working Life Editor Michelle Conlin. To put it bluntly, girls are simply smarter than boys.

It is widely thought that girls are weak in math and science and boys are weak in English and social studies. Writing for CNews, Jen Horsey says, "While girls may have overcome the gender gap in science and math at school, recent research from around the world shows boys continue to struggle with reading and writing." Why is this? It is not specifically known, but perhaps it is biological. It isn't limited to America. During a World Today radio interview in Australia, Joe O'Brien said, citing a study in which 130 boys and girls were studied for about 3 1/2 years. At age 2 1/2 there were no apparent differences in their intelligence. By age six, however, "teachers were already suggesting that the girls were doing better than the boys," said O'Brien. In high school, this trend is continuing. At Hanover High School in Massachusetts, the Advanced Placement classes are often 70-80% female.

It is not only in the realm of intelligence that females rule. When it comes to recovering from surgery, we have the upper hand. The BBC reports that in a recent study "girls had higher levels of cytokine IL-10" (a biological chemical that suppresses inflammation). Six of ten boys developed organ failure but none of the eight girls studied did. Hmmm. Maybe that's why females live to an older age than males.

I am not the only one who has realized the value of our gender. A very clever person got their proof from the Bible, an old and often used source.

#### Top Ten Reasons Eve Was Created:

10. God was worried that Adam would frequently become lost in the garden because he would not ask for directions.
9. God knew that one day Adam would require someone to locate and hand him the remote.
8. God knew Adam would never go out and buy

## The Brutal Truth About Men

himself a new fig leaf when his wore out and would therefore need Eve to buy one for him.

7. God knew Adam would never be able to make a doctor's, dentist, or haircut appointment for himself.

6. God knew Adam would never remember which night to put the garbage on the curb.

5. God knew if the world were to be populated,



[www.disclife.com/fe\\_usdgc00.shtml](http://www.disclife.com/fe_usdgc00.shtml)

men would never be able to handle the pain and discomfort of childbearing.

4. As the Keeper of the Garden, Adam would never remember where he left his tools.

3. Apparently, Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden.

2. As the Bible says, it is not good for man to be alone!

And finally, the Number 1 reason why God created Eve . . .

1. When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched his head, and said, "I can do better than that."

ATTENTION: It has just been leaked that Santa Claus is actually a woman! Really, he is! I'm not kidding!!

#### Why Santa can't possibly be a man:

- Men can't pack a bag.
- Men would rather be dead than caught wearing red velvet.
- Men would feel their masculinity is threatened, having to be seen with all those elves.
- Men don't answer their mail.
- Men would refuse to allow their physique to be described, even in

jest, as anything remotely resembling a "bowl full of jelly."

- Finally, being responsible for Christmas would require a commitment.

Despite these scientific studies, there are some frighteningly simple reasons to why girls are better than boys that the obviously superior gender in ORHS came up with. Reasons why the residents of Oyster River High School think girls are better than boys:

"We're moody." -Brynn Bowes

"Boys have poor self-control and smell bad." - Sarah Froelich

"God didn't have much experience starting out. He made things like spiders and mosquitoes. Men were basically a slight improvement upon mosquitoes, ticks, spiders, and poison ivy. The last things he made were women, chocolate, and unicorns, because he learned from failure." -Emily Belanger

"People trust girls more." -Syndey Brown

"Girls know how to deal." -Kate Maurer

"We're cleaner." -Anonymous

"We're cooler than they are." -Megan McMann

"Without men there would be no war." -Sarah Butterfield

Girls are "sugar and spice and everything nice. Boys are made of snakes, snails, and puppy dog tails." -Anonymous

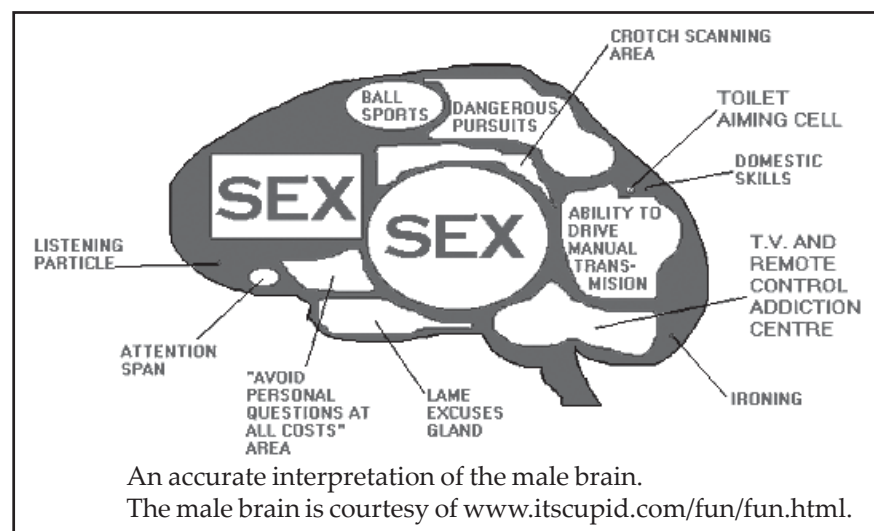
"Women have better balance." -Brittany Gaylord

"We're more mature, more beautiful, charming, passionate, cool . . . did I say cool?" -Angela Gong

"We have babies." -Libby Allen

"To put it bluntly, girls rule and boys drool." - Emily Nelson

The Santa Claus and the Adam and Eve "jokes" are courtesy of [www.basicjokes.com](http://www.basicjokes.com).





# The Brutal Truth About Women



by Zach Moss  
*Op-Ed Writer*

Over the past month I have been accumulating certain facts that have led me to believe that which I have always had a sneaking suspicion of, men are better than women. I mean guys are physically stronger and have a greater mental capacity. Exhibit A, all major sporting events that are at all worth watching are played by men, except for mud/Jell-O wrestling. Exhibit B, all presidents, that is the people we choose to best represent our country, have been men. Basically men are simply better than women, everyone knows it.

Not only are men superior, but women are jealous of the male greatness and as such have been messing things up for the rest of us since the beginnings of time. Let's go back to the time of Adam and Eve, where we can see that women are solely responsible for the human race getting kicked out of paradise (aka The Garden of Eden). True the snake did trick Eve, but I ask you this...

How did the snake get into the kitchen to talk to her in the first place?

These are just some of the many facts that I have found that led me to the following list of reasons why men are better than women:

- 1. A 5-day trip requires only one suitcase.
- 2. We can open all our own jars.
- 3. We can make decisions without a support group.
- 4. We can leave a motel bed unmade.
- 5. We get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.
- 6. If someone forgets to invite us to something they can still be our friend.
- 7. Underwear is a \$10 three-pack.
- 8. Three pairs of shoes are more than adequate.
- 9. We can sit quietly and watch TV with a friend for hours without thinking "He must be mad at me."
- 10. We can drop by and see a friend without having to bring a little gift.
- 11. Your pals will never trap you with: "So, notice anything different?"
- 12. We are not expected to know the names of more than 5 colors.
- 13. We are totally unable to see wrinkles in our clothes.
- 14. We don't have to shave below the neck.
- 15. A few belches are expected and tolerated.
- 16. One wallet, one pair of shoes, one color, all seasons.
- 17. Christmas shopping can be accomplished for 25 people on the day before Christmas and be done in 45 minutes.
- 18. If you're 34 and single, nobody even notices
- 19. One mood, all the time!
- 20. We don't change our last names, women do.

Cats do what they want, when they want. They rarely listen to you. They're totally unpredictable. They whine when they are not happy. When you want to play they want to be left alone. When you want to be alone, they want to play. They expect you to cater to their every whim. They're moody. They leave their hair everywhere. They drive you nuts.

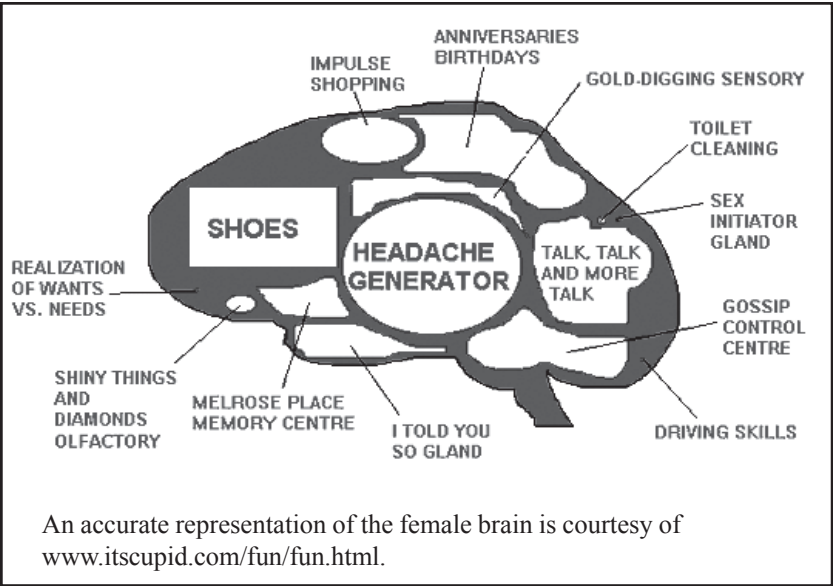
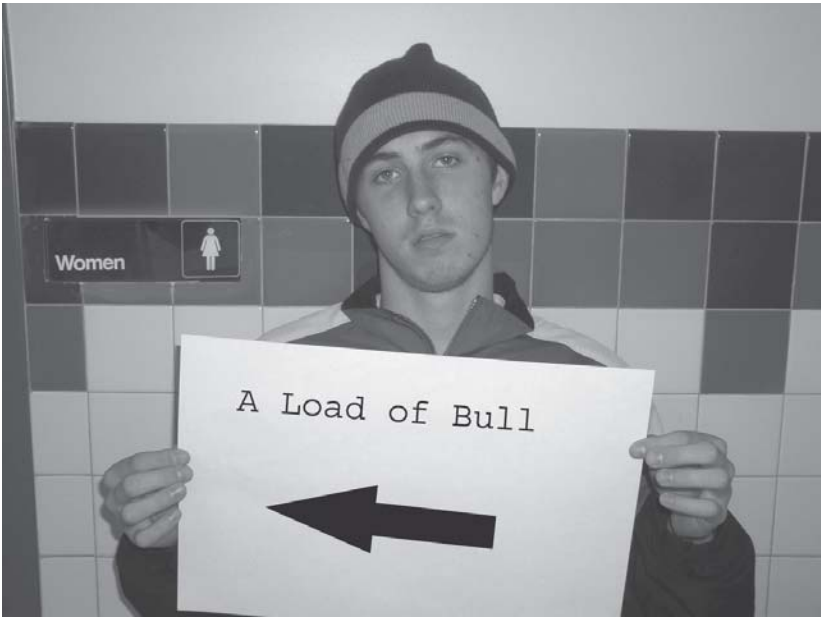
Conclusion: Cats are little, tiny women in cheap fur coats

\*From [www.markfunk.com/](http://www.markfunk.com/)

"When a larger percent of girls can pay the bills, then they can be better than us."  
-Josh Small, a Senior

"A woman's sole purpose in life is to be controlled by a man."  
-David Armstrong, a Junior

Some of you may say that the in writing this article, I am being incredibly sexist and have no respect for women. My response is simply this, what's worse than a male chauvinist pig? A woman that won't do what she is told.





## Ain't Nuthin' but a Lee, Durham, and Madbury Thang

by Emily Nelson  
Op-Ed Writer

According to junior David Armstrong, "Nobody has the right to be a thug in New Hampshire." Well, apparently the vast majority of Oyster River High School begs to differ.

While consulting various members of the tri-city area (that would be the respective metropolises of Lee, Madbury, and Durham for all of you not down with the lingo), I found that it feels damn good to be a gangsta, particularly in New Hampshire, and ain't nobody gonna hold these ones down.

You might be asking yourself, "What constitutes a thug/gangsta?" and this is a fair question. If you haven't already taken notice of most of the freshmen boys, an explanation is required. Firstly, it's location, location, and, you guessed it, location! Not just any citizen of any Seacoast town can claim to be gangsta - you gotta be from the hood.

For example, you look around Durham at the various eateries, historical brick buildings, and farm houses and you think, "Eh, this is a'ight if you consider Will Smith the epitome of baaaad."

But as soon as you set foot in Lee, you might as well be in East Compton. Cemeteries, gas stations, and McDonald's - you practically expect to see Suge Knight lurking around the corner. As junior Andy LeBarge eloquently put it, "McDonald's means ghetto." Basically, if there's not at least one fast food joint in your town, don't even trip. So to

all you Madbury wannabes, looks like the folk-rock aisle in your local music store is where you're



Margaret Bieniek-straight thuggin'

headed.

So now we've covered location, let's move on to the next component of gangsta: style or, should I say, STIZYLE. Now you might not have it like a chemical spill a la Vanilla Ice, but it's important to put an effort in, or you won't command respect. To look the part, you must deck yourself out in gaudy oversized jerseys emblazoned with your sports idol of choice. And what about your bling-bling? Most gangstas opt for iced-out necklaces

but I find paper clip chains to be a fine substitute.

Also, don't forget that speech and vernacular is a big part of style. Refer to your friends as your "dawgs" or your "homies", or if you feel like throwing in some southern flava, call them your "dirties." Sophomore Andy Vatistas knows that style is key. When people question his thugness he just tells those fools to back up off his grill and peep his pants.

It's not all about the clothes though. A real gangsta knows how to dance. It's of the essence to be able to "Crypt walk". If you don't know what that is then you should be ashamed to consider yourself ghetto-fab.

Lastly, you've got to have the attitude. Thugs know they've had a rough life and they also know they got to keep their heads up like Tupac, even when the road is hard. Take it from LeBarge, "Growing up in Lee is tough."

When your hardest decision in your life so far has been whether to spend your allowance on that new Ludacris CD or a pair of Timbs, you tend to be pretty street-wisened. Confidence is also essential. Junior Doug Wilcox may not be the most obvious thug, but he remains self-assured. "I'm a pretty bad thug. I'm down with it," he says.

So all this ghetto-fabness is great, but what do you do when you encounter haters like Alex Belaidi? He says that "white people shouldn't try to simulate black culture." This is obviously an outlandish opinion because as an anonymous sophomore told me, "Thug isn't a skin color, it's a state of mind." And that, my fellow Nelly proteges, is why you too can forget about being PC and be a thug in New Hampshire.

### Label Yourself!

Having an identity crisis? With all the various cliques that populate Oystah Rivah it's not hard to see why. If you're struggling with trying to define yourself and your character, stereotype yourself NOW. Just pick the answer that suits you best, you know the drill.

- 1) The CD that never leaves your stereo is:
  - a. "Illmatic" - Nas
  - b. "Oops! I Did It Again" - Britney Spears
  - c. "Farmhouse" - Phish
  - d. "Damaged" - Black Flag
- 2) Your ensemble of choice is:
  - a. Eckowear

- b. Skin tight jeans with an oversized Aeropostale sweatshirt
- c. Tie-dyed everything
- d. Combat boots and plaid pants complete with butt flap

- 3) Your most marked accessory is:
  - a. Band-Aid placed strategically on cheek
  - b. Mascara wand
  - c. Hemp
  - d. Mohawk

- 4) On a Saturday night you are usually:
  - a. Rollin' wit da homies
  - b. Hitting the mall with my gurlzzz
  - c. Burning incense and playing bongoes

- d. Being misunderstood
- 5) The movie that defines your life is:
  - a. How to Be a Player
  - b. She's All That
  - c. Too deep for the frivolity that is film
  - d. SLC Punk!

If you got mostly A's, please see the above article. Mostly B's means you are either a sophomore girl or a teenybopper. They're kind of synonymous. You're a hippy of the 21st century if you chose mostly C's, keeping the flower child spirit alive. Mostly D's: just keep telling yourself that punk's not dead. Maybe Joe Strummer will be resurrected. If you didn't match any of the choices, CONGRATS! You are a true individual. Pat yourself on the back and go be unique.



## Athlete of the Month: Marianne Owens

Heidi Vetterling

By Sportswriter

You can find senior Marianne Owens playing sports all three seasons here at Oyster River High School. She has been a great contribution to the teams she has participated in ever since she first stepped foot in this building way back in the year 2000. When she is not busy dedicating her time to the team with practices and games you can find her hanging out with her friends or spending time with her three siblings acting as the older sister to two younger brothers. Marianne has been chosen as the athlete of the month because she has made a great contribution to all sports she has participated in, and acts as a great teammate and strong leader no matter what she is doing.



What sports do you Play?  
Soccer, Cheerleading and Softball

What age did you start playing sports?  
*I am pretty sure I was in the fetal position...*

Favorite Color?  
*Hot Pink!*

Favorite Quote?  
*"There is no I in TEAM"*

Pet Peeve?  
*Mean people*

Lucky Number?  
*#7*

Favorite Food?  
*McDonalds*

Favorite Word?  
*HOLLER*

If you could be anyone who would you be?  
*A lion like Simba....HAKUNA MATATA!*

Do you have anything strange about you that we should all know?  
*I hiccup at least five times a day, is that weird?*

by Kathleen Kilmain  
Sportswriter

Once in a while I flip through the channels, and a swish of glittering fabric will come swooping across the screen. I stop, curious to figure out what I just saw, my eyes settle in and the figure of a woman dressed in an elaborate sparkling dress is twirling. I am fascinated as the dancing partners spin gracefully around the dance floor. They appear to be moving effortlessly, however I realized that is not the case.

Although my knowledge of ballroom dancing has been limited to gym class, I could still imagine the heat of the judges eyes, the spotlights, timing, plus the added pressure of 10 million people tuned into their television, like me, watching my every move. Most of this stress comes with competing, however is ballroom dancing itself a sport?

"It's a skill, not a sport" claims junior Anne Tregea. Andy LeBarge backs her up. "You don't have to have to be especially talented to ballroom dance, it seems like just a thing people did for fun a long time ago."

## Ballroom Dancing in the Olympics?



Portsmouth Ballroom dance class

However the International DanceSport Federation (IDSF) has been pushing to have themselves recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as a medal sport. Many dancers were looking forward to seeing dancing in the 2008 Olympics with medal status. The IOC needs more convincing that DanceSport is ready for medal status, however it is possible that it could convince the IOC at a later date.

"I can see why ballroom dancing would become an Olympic sport," said Ms. McPhee, who teaches it in gym class. "It takes coordination and endurance. It's just like figure skating with out the skates" said Mr. Maynard. The physical education department feels it is necessary to teach dance because it is part of the curriculum and because "it's a neat thing for people to learn, and it can be useful later on, like at a wedding or bar mitzvah" said McPhee.

Tom Michell, who has been teaching dance at the Portsmouth Ballroom for four years, describes dancing as "very healthy, good exercise, where you get introduced to different cultures." (Continued on page 26)

## Gym Class: Love it or Hate it

by Adem Althor  
Sports Writer

On March 25th, 1968, the stock market rose 152 points, another 220 Americans died in Vietnam, and Thomas P. Schultie was born. Roughly 30 years later, Schultie, Cathy Baker, and Tim Quint would play key roles in one of the greatest, fastest evolving Physical Education programs in the country. With an assist from the middle-school program, ORHS Phys Ed has never been stronger.

We've reached a day where only the seniors can remember a name like Phyllis Pomerleau. Mrs. Pomerleau is recognized by most as a likable gym teacher who could teach virtually any unit to perfection, with the exception of indoor soccer, arguably. Her

OR needed.

Despite having a tremendous faculty, the beauty of OR gym class is in the eye of the beholder. Most students give gym class a "thumbs up", but some would disagree. Part of the never-ending controversy over whether gym should exist comes down to the parents. Most parents preach the virtue of gym class, noting that "statistically, kids perform better academically when they have the opportunity to exercise." Presumably, if gym class was a cereal, it would be Kix. "Kids tested, mothers approved."

To certain students, high school gym class gathers mixed reviews. Some see it as a good break in their day to relax. Others see it as an opportunity to become competitive in an activity. Surprisingly, a large percentage of girls have reported the Gym class is, "stupid," and it is a "waste of time".

Those who seem to enjoy gym most are those who take a competitive edge during class. Most seniors recall the most competitive of them all, the late great, Ty Helton. Helton, who is no longer an OR student, was once described by a fellow PE classmate as "a bull in a china closet". Helton's raging aggression in gym class was appreciated by some and feared by others.

Ty Helton aspirant Mike Damast claimed that he was the most competitive person in his gym

class. As a display of his ferocity, Damast explained how he "needed to take a shower after every gym class" as a result of his perspiration.

Alex Foster, winner of the coveted Physical Education award, displayed his affection for gym class in a different light, "Gym is one of those things where you don't know what you've got till it is gone—sort of like paradise before it was turned it to a parking lot. Gym was always my favorite class because it let me try things I never would have tried."

As the saga of Gym class continues, physical education is getting closer to becoming all things to all people. For some, it's a break in the day. For others, it's useless, boring, and futile. And for the bloodthirsty gamers who don't mind getting their new khakis a little dirty, well, gym class is bliss.

## Could This be the Year?

by Nick Sosnowski

Contributing Writer

Could this be the year? No, not for the Red Sox, but for the UNH Men's Hockey team, there's a strong chance. After a blow-out win (9-2) against Union, some are saying yes.

"I think that this is the year," said Jack Knoll, student at Oyster River High School, in Durham. "They lost a couple of good players but gained some really good freshmen." "UNH will win a NCAA Tournament before the Sox win the pennant."

UNH Coach Richard Umile said that he feels they have a strong chance but need to work on a few things.

"I believe we can get into the NCAA tournament. I think that we need to work on lettering plays develop and deeping out 4 lines, then we have a strong chance." "We have 3 lines that are pretty good but we need 4 lines to compete in the tournament."

Both Chris Milner and Jack Knoll agree that UNH need to work on a few things. "Once the freshmen learn how it works, they'll be fine. They aren't going to win all the time. They may have some trouble," said Jack.

"They need to work on playing like a team, shooting when they have a chance, and working on their power play," said Chris.

A freshman has stepped in and been a valuable asset to UNH, especially in the Union game. Jacob Micflikier had 4 goals against Union.

"He played very well," said Umile. "He was on a good line and performed well."

"We have a great core of freshmen this season," said Umile. "The seniors always graduate and they are very good....This year we've got some freshmen who can be very good," said Umile.

"Right now, the leaders of the team are Patrick Foley, Steve Saviano, and Michael Ayers," said Umile. "We are getting good leadership from them."

"We are doing well defensively and getting good leadership," said Umile.

Can UNH win the Frozen Four? We will have to wait and see.

Right now if they work on a few things, they have a chance.



A view into the intense competition of a freshman gym class

scouting report also says that she was skilled in the Ballroom dancing unit and a bit weak in the football department. It was hard not to like Mrs. Pomerleau but everybody seemed to know that due to her age, her days might be numbered at Oyster River.

In 2001 when Mrs. Pomerleau declared that she would not be present in the 2002-03 school year, PE-enthusiasts all over New Hampshire lamented over the fact that OR would never be able to replace the veteran Pomerleau. Enter John Morin. When the Oyster River front office went out and signed Morin to a long-term deal, many experts questioned how OR had the cap room to go out and sign a young free agent such as Morin. The young Morin's combination of sporting knowledge and personality was exactly what

Missed your chance to watch  
an ORHS soccer game?

Catch it on Channel 22 with  
Brewer and Murphy doing  
commentary. It's better than  
ESPN!



## Sports Riots

by Heidi Vetterling

*Sports writer*

There you stand...in the middle of a huge crowd of yelling people who are pegging police officers with half full beer cans, swearing at them, calling them names that you would only use to describe your worst enemy. The quick bursts of pepper spray only disturbs the enormous crowd for what seems to be seconds, having them run away and then rush back to the center of the streets. They seem to be pushing the crowd to get more and more excited, ready to go all over again.

The spray and pellets that are being shot leave huge egg like welts on the lucky few who are fortunate enough to be shot with them. Around you people are jumping onto the roofs of cars or trying to flip them over, not even because they dislike the owner of the car...just because it's a riot...and HEY why not? ... If you experience this situation, or one similar to it, it can only mean one thing...yep that's right my friend you are a rioter and you are at a RIOT!

Here at Oyster River High School we are fortunate enough to be so close to UNH campus that *some* of us have experienced the riots first hand. "They are awesome!" Alex Lamb and Preston Miller said at the same time when asked about the recent riot after the Red Sox lost to the Yankees in that heart breaking 11<sup>th</sup> inning. Some people like to get involved in the destructive part of rioting, but other, more humble, people choose to just sit back and enjoy the show.

"I have watched the riots from the outskirts. I guess I just don't enjoy getting my head blown off by illegal fireworks" said Tirzah Drake.

Others think that going to riots is encouraging unnecessary destructive behavior. "People are idiots; I guess riots are the cool thing to do now..." Brianna Powers said sarcastically when asked her opinion on the local riots.

But riots are not all fun and games. The repercussions from participating in such riots have included expulsion from school, arrests, and the three-game suspension of eight hockey players be-

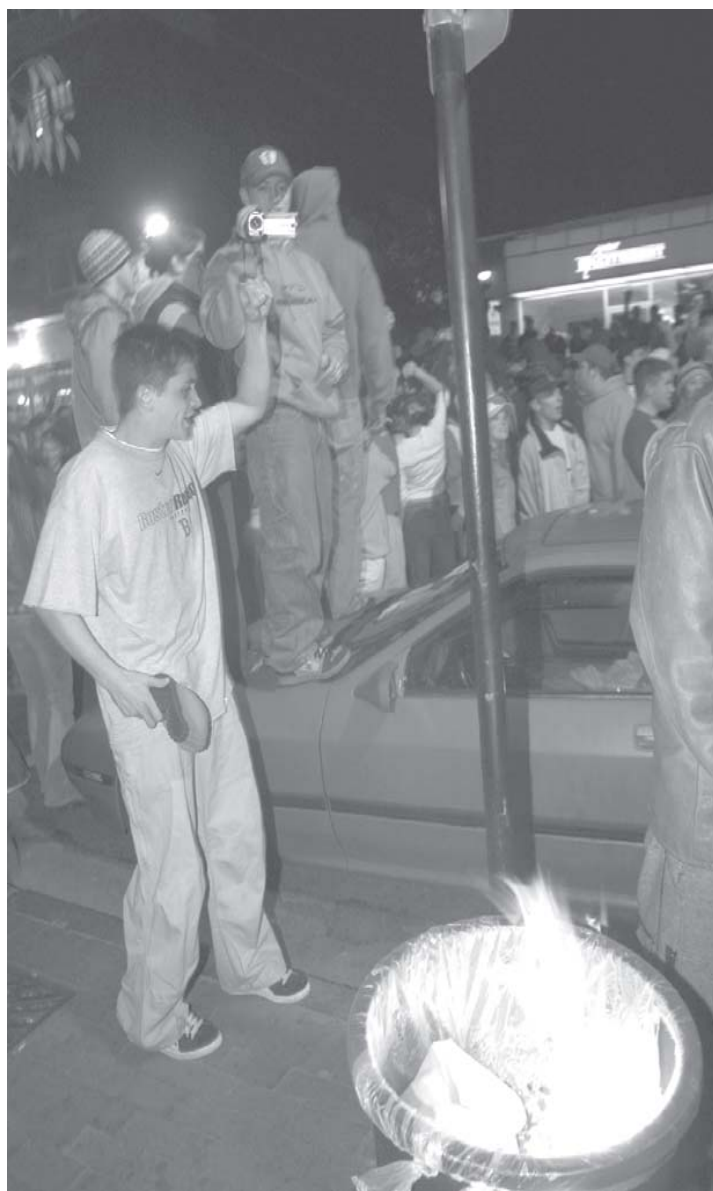
cause they were spotted in downtown Durham area during the most recent riot.

The UNH student senate is currently working hard to stop their school's rioting. The police at campuses all over the country are also working to prevent this new riot trend from continuing.

No matter if you are college student or not many will feel the effects of their towns' riot. "These riots are very destructive...I know I only live about 2 minutes walking distance from Durham Market Place...and there was smashed pumpkin all the way to my driveway" explained Oyster River senior Brynn Bowes.

Who knows whether or not these riots will increase or decrease over time? Perhaps we will find out in April if the UNH hockey team makes it to the finals again...or next year if the Red Sox are fortunate enough to get a wild card into the

world series. No matter what, these riots will continue to be highly publicized outlining both the harmful and destructive effects that these riots cause.



Students riot in downtown Durham  
- photo courtesy of Foster's Daily Democrat

## NCAA Requirements - Say What?

Kathleen Kilmain

*by Sportswriter*

Listen up all you student athletes. Are you planning on playing a sport in college? If you are, then you may or may not have to deal with the

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Many of you have watched NCAA championships on TV or seen their logo on sports gear, posters and magazines...but what exactly is it and why might you need to contact it to play a sport in college?

The NCAA is an association made up of 1,200 universities and colleges, athletic conferences and sports organizations. Volunteers from the different schools conference and discuss and attempt to solve any athletic problems that have become national. Okay...but why might you have to deal with them?

Well, if you are planing to apply to a division III school you will not. If you are applying to a division I or II school, you will need to register to see if you are eligible to play at that school. The differences between division I, II and III are mainly based on the size of the school and the number of team sports they offer. UNH is a divison I school, which is the largest. There are also specific requirements for the number of competitions each sport is involved in and both genders must be represented each season.

You can register online at [www.NCAA.org](http://www.NCAA.org) but do not forget to tell the guidance department to send your transcript to the NCAA. "Sometimes athletes don't have their transcript sent in early enough and they can't participate in their sport that fall," said Mrs. Gephardt, the Athletic director.

Your application and transcript go to the NCAA Clearinghouse in Iowa City, Iowa, who has a list of the specific "core courses" at ORHS. This is done to make sure you have enough credits to qualify. When approved, the application and transcript is sent to the college/university.

How do you know if you're taking enough courses and if they are core courses? The core courses here at ORHS are listed in the ORHS student handbooks. The NCAA comes up with this list after our guidance department sends in a list of the classes they think meet their standards. The NCAA does not count courses that produce a publication (Journalism 2 and Yearbook) or preparatory classes (Intro to Algebra and Geometry or Intro to Physics).

A few years ago the guidance department had trouble getting the NCAA to count Essentials of High School English as core course because they thought that the "essentials" in its title meant that it did not meet NCAA standards. After the guidance department explained the course to them it was changed. Mrs. McKay believes

(Continued on page 26)



# The Life of a Reserver

You gather around your coach after the pre-game warmup. As the starters are read, you recall the great shots you've just made, and how hard you've worked in practice all week. You wipe your sweaty palms on your uniform to prepare for slapping your teammates' hands as you rush triumphantly on to the field. As you practice flashing your victory smile to stands full of cheering fans, you realize that the coach is already done, and that it's time for you to head back to the bench, destined to cheer once again...

Now magnify that sensation by twenty players, and you feel what the boys' reserve soccer experienced for a whole season. Overshadowed by the stellar season of the boys' varsity soccer team, the reserves generally got shoved aside in the mad scramble to get sweaty soccer jerseys and autographs. I mean, how many of you have ever been to a reserve game? Player Creg Mason said that, "We have some fans... well, not counting our parents, we've got one or two... sometimes."

When questioned as to whether their third-fiddle role and lack of fans was discouraging, reserve player Joe Gehling replied that "I don't not like them [fans]. It'd be cool to have a lot, but it doesn't really bother me."

That covers the team's overall mentality: one of vaguely optimistic apathy. The players look upon the reserve season as a chance to practice

by Dina Tsukrov  
Sportswriter

their skills on the field before the score counts and the fans care. Out of eight players interviewed, six planned to play for JV next year. "Assuming that my grades are good enough," Alex Hoyt added.

Still, the life of a reserver seems grossly unfair. They play and practice nearly as hard as the far more publicized JV and varsity teams; their playing skills (to my untrained eyes) seemed quite good, yet their fans consist of a several proud parents and a couple die-hard girlfriends. Why doesn't anybody care about reserve soccer?

Around junior year, boys' soccer players emerge from their JV chrysalis to become idolized and respected varsity players, but it seems odd that there are no fans searching for the source of this talent earlier. I mean, how much cooler is it to say, "I was watching him play way back when he was on reserve, because I knew they would be champions even then."

To most of the players, however, the explanation seems clear. As expressed by Hoyt, "Reserve doesn't deserve fans - they'll come when they're older." Meanwhile, the boys will keep playing, and hopefully ORHS will continue producing champions.



## NHIAA (continued from pg. 25)

the NCAA is consistent and not unnecessarily demanding. "The total number of courses required is not enough so that kids can still take an art class and still be eligible," she explains.

However Nicole LeBarge, a former ORHS student who now swims for UMASS Amherst (Division 1) thinks "the NCAA is pretty crappy. If someone were to offer me a parking space because I'm an athlete, I couldn't accept because it would violate the NCAA rules, you can't get any benefits." LeBarge, who had problems transferring some of her UNH credits, adds that "they try to make it mandatory so every sport can not have a practice after a meet (or game), but it's not good for all sports to do that."

The NCAA has guidelines not only for athletes, but also for the organization. "A college cannot contact an athlete until the spring of their junior year, although a player can call a coach. So, if you are considering playing a sport in college, make sure that you are taking the right courses and that you tell the guidance department to send your transcript. Even if you're not sure, it never hurts to be prepared and keep all your option open.

## Ballroom Dancing (continued from pg. 23)

Most high schools do not offer ballroom dancing or consider it a sport. "In high school the best athletes dominate a team, more people end up being spectators. Dancing gives everybody a chance to play and all different age groups a chance to intermingle," explains Michell. Michell believes calling ballroom dancing a sport "is not a bad thing, but the social aspect gets lost a little bit. 99.9% of dancers just want to go out with a boyfriend or husband and enjoy the night."

Ballroom dancing is different when competing. "You compete to impress judges, sometimes the pressure of winning takes over," says Michell.

Many ORHS students said that they would take ballroom dance if the school offered lessons. "It looks pretty athletic, I'd probably compete," said David Lofgren.

Whether or not ballroom dancing becomes an Olympic sport with metal status, one million plus people are enrolling in ballroom dancing lessons every year and 425 colleges offer ballroom dance classes. Who knows, you might decide be the one twirling around the dance floor, on a T.V show. status, one million plus people are enrolling in ballroom dancing lessons every year and 425 colleges offer ballroom dance classes. Who knows, you might decide be the one twirling around the dance floor, on a T.V show.



## ~ Fall Season Wrap-up ~

**BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY: 6th in Class I**

TEAM: 2nd in Kingswood Individual  
4th in Plymouth Invitational  
5th in Kennett Invitational

\*Qualified for the Meet of the Champions (top 16 teams in Class I)

**GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY: 5th in Class I**

TEAM: 1st in Kingswood Individual  
4th in Plymouth Invitational

\* Qualified for the Meet of the Champions (top 16 teams in Class I)

INDIVIDUAL: Rachel Rines broke the OR 5K record (set in 1985 at 20:11) with 19:37 in 2003. She was second in Class I and 6th in the state.

Looking back: "The season went quite well. We are a young team and we have a lot of potential for next year. It should be fun." - Kay Dallan

**GIRLS' FIELD HOCKEY: 10th in Class I**

The girls' had a great season, finishing 7-7, or tenth out of the nineteen Class I teams. "We had a fun season and tried out hardest," stated Junior Alyssa Ballestero. The team was headed by the great plays and leadership of their two captains; senior goalie Julia Kincade and senior offensive player Erica Taylor.

Their best game was away against Hanover, where they lost 2-1 but, "realized that we were all going to be strong competitors in Class I," as Kincade explains. The team made it to the quarterfinals where they lost to Laconia 2-0. This year they lose three seniors whose positions they say, "will be hard to replace."

**GIRLS' SOCCER: undefeated (regular season)**

This season was the most successful in recent memory for the OR girls' varsity soccer team. They finished with a record of 16-0, but lost to St. Thomas in the play offs, 0-1.

According to senior captain Kim Stevens, the two best games were against Hanover and Souhegan (4-1 and 1-0, respectively). "I think our focus for those games was the best it's been all year," said Stevens.

Still, though their record would suggest otherwise, the team claims it also had some bad games, the worst of these being Hollis-Brookline (whom they beat 1-0). "We were not playing up to our usual standard of play. We should have dominated the court and we didn't," Stevens explained.

Though their season had the occasional bump in the road, the OR girls' soccer team did very well,

and as far as stats go, had a "perfect season." What more could you ask for?

**GOLF: bad**

The golf team at OR truly experienced a rebuilding season. Although this doesn't mean that they were unsuccessful, a term applied when no actual building took place, their playing wasn't up to past years. "Yeah, uh, I don't even know what our record was," said senior member Brandon Lonstein. "I would just say that it was absolutely horrible."

While not enjoying success on the course, the golf team had a great time hanging out and enjoying each other's company on and off it. "The best part of the season was the pizza hut trips and James Cody. James Cody in general was the best part of the season," Lonstein added.

The one bright spot rested in the 9-iron of Mark Van Horn. Van Horn consistently put up the team's best scores and did his best to carry his team to victory. The moral of this story is that every Michael Jordan needs a Scottie Pippen.

**BOYS' VOLLEYBALL: not too hot**

Although they lost 3-2 even in their "best game" (against Salem), and their worst game (against Timberlane) was the only one televised, the OR boys' volleyball team had a really fun season filled with many memorable moments. Zach Moss listed his favorite moment as "When Alex Foster and I sung the national anthem and someone recorded it. It sounded so bad!" JV player Eric Baker added that he didn't have a worst game because "they were all really bad - they all just mixed together in my mind," but that the team was "very united. Way closer than we should have been. We'd have the whole bus to ourselves and somehow we'd all end up in the back five seats."

**TEAM QUOTES AND MEMORIES:**

- "The best part of boys' volleyball is watching girls' volleyball."
- "All of the bus rides from away games. They were really really sketchy."
- "When Spencer, a freshman on the team, was called for something and yelled at the ref, "No! No! I didn't touch the ball!" The team had to hold him back so that he wouldn't get a yellow card."
- "Me blocking that really tall guy from Salem. The seven foot one."
- "Our record next year will also reflect the time and effort we put into this season."
- "When Q made us run backwards really really fast and at least four of us fell down. Two people broke their wrists and like one person broke their leg. Q pretty much crippled his own team. And then he tried to make us do it again the next day."

**GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL: 12-4**

The Oyster River girls' volleyball team has been impressive all throughout their 2003 season, even right up to the end with a tough loss in the quarterfinals to Souhegan.

"I'm so proud of everyone on this team, we came together when we needed to and we showed everyone what we're made of," says senior setter Michaela Olson.

Led by senior captains McKenna Clark and all-stater Amy Maurer, the girls finished their regular season with a record of 12-4. The team started off their season on a sour note with a loss to Coe Brown, but then turned the tables and went soaring on a 6-game winning streak. When faced with playing Coe Brown again in the regular season, they took their opportunity and ran with it, spanking the Bears 3 games to 1.

All in all, the Oyster River girls volleyball team had a stellar season and will be on rebuilding terms next year with the loss of many key players including Maurer, Clark, Olson, and Tirzah Drake. Congrats on a great season Bobcats!

**BOYS' SOCCER: undefeated - DIVISION CHAMPIONS!**

With two consecutive state championships in their record, the OR Boys Varsity Soccer Team is hoping for a third. Holding a record of 17-0-1, Captain Danny Lynch credits their season in part to "great team chemistry."

Although the team struggled through their late season game with Raymond which ended in a 0-0 tie, they more than made up for it with their brutal match against Souhegan. Even when Souhegan scored the first goal, OR kept their composure to eventually pull ahead 3-1 in the end.

Their first championship game ended in a tie in double overtime, and at first it looked as though their second would end the same way, but the Bobcats were able to score with less than three minutes left in the game, 1-0. The three-year undefeated Bobcats are on the prowl for the champion title once again!

Thanks to contributing writers:  
Ben Sulsky (cross country), Michaela Olsen (girls' volleyball), Nick Miale (girls' soccer), Danny Lynch (boys' golf), Cassy Cox (boys' volleyball), Julia Kincade (girls' volleyball), Kim Stevens (boys' soccer)



**Which one doesn't belong?  
Be the first to tell Mrs. Kucera who and why, and claim your prize!**

